Education Focus

SELANGOR TURF CLUB
HORSE SCULPTURE COMPETITION

1st Runner Up
UCSI University
RM5,000

UCSI emerges as the first runner-up at the Design and Illustrate Horse Sculpture Competition.

Producing architects who exemplify Sullivan philosophy

AT UCSI University, the study of architecture is not just about working with or designing inanimate objects. Here, students are shown and taught that architecture involves many areas that would require the architect to learn about building activities and building systems and their integration for human comfort, as well as the social, legal, political and economic influences of design and construction.

A good architect incorporates his experiences with that of the community for whom he is designing or building physical structures. According to the great American architect, Louis H. Sullivan, architecture should exhibit the spirit of the time and needs of the people.

Mohamed Zani Mohammad Zain, the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Built Environment associate dean who heads the School of Architecture and Built Environment at UCSI University, said this philosophy is the key to increase one's employability and achieve success as an architect.

At UCSI University, both the architecture diploma and degree courses incorporate this philosophy. Mohamed Zani said many potential architecture students perceive that a diploma or a degree are distinctively different in terms of the quality of graduates produced.

"The diploma programme is to introduce students to various functional issues related to construction and architecture," he said.

"Design, however, will not be the primary focus, as the objective of the course is more focused on technical competencies."

It is when the student takes on the higher level of studies in architecture and interior architecture that the technical competencies and basic design skills have to be nurtured in a more holistic, design-intensive environment.

Mohammad Zani said the diploma programme provides students with a solid foundation in architecture and interior architecture before they proceed to the more design-based aspects of the degree programme.

The degree programme focuses on design, which is considered the core of any architecture and interior architecture studies.

"The more comprehensive nature of design along with its integration with technology, structures, theory and services necessitates a higher academic qualification, as it requires more critical thinking skills combined with creativity," he said.

Aside from consistently conducting architecture reviews twice a year at UCSI University, where projects are evaluated by professionals in the field, students also enter various competitions to feature their works.

Recently, UCSI students were the first runner-up at the Design and Illustrate Horse Sculpture Competition, organised by the Selangor Turf Club. Pitted against more established design schools, the architecture students were able to hold their own and created a textured multi-medium piece.

Mohammade Zani said the various activities and platforms to interact with, and learn from, industry professionals not only prepare the graduates for work in the field of architecture or interior architecture, but also equip them for work in other fields such as commercial and retail design, exhibition design, furniture design or project management.

"Our graduates will have the ability and flexibility to recognise their own strengths and be better prepared to venture into niche fields that will showcase their forte," Mohammad Zani said.

For more, log on
www.ucsi.edu.my.

He said UCSI University's architecture graduates are globally employable as long as they apply themselves, their learning, their expertise, their experience, and their skills to their current professional environment.

"The combination is indeed a difficult one to achieve, but we believe that we have the right ingredients here at UCSI University to produce a creative and progressive workforce for the world."

UCSI University offers the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Architectural Technology and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Interior Architecture, in addition to Diploma in Interior Architecture and Diploma in Architectural Studies.

For enquiries, drop by during UCSI Open Days on Aug 8 and 9 (from 10am to 5pm) and talk to the counsellors, call 03-9101 8880 or leave a message at www.ucsi.edu.my/onlineenquiry/